Jackson ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes February 9, 2011

This meeting was held at the MS Arts Center- Community Room at 201 East Pascagoula Street. Attending the meeting were members: Lee Cole, Chairperson; Sam Gleese, City of Jackson ADA Coordinator; Napoleon Campbell, Jason Bunch, Lynn Hill, Other Guests attending today were: Abram Hamer, Louis Armstrong, Department of Human and Cultural Services; George Ewing, City's Public Works Infrastructure Department; and Azande Williams, City Legal Department.

- I. Lee called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- II. Members and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Minutes and agenda for February's Meeting weren't available.
- IV. Report from the City
 - a. Mr. Gleese will make serious effort of upgrading Emergency Management Preparedness Plan for the City of Jackson to be inclusive of persons with disability.
 - The Red Cross will be conducting Training on February 16 -17, 2011. The training will be for City employees, on how to operate emergency/disaster shelters
 - b. National Transit Institute will conduct a 2-day training entitled: "Comprehensive ADA Paratransit Eligibility", to be held March 1st and 2nd at the King Edward (Hilton Garden). Participating will be JATRAN staff, City Employees, advocates for the disability community and regional transportation providers.
 - Mr. Gleese asked Dr. Crawford to report on a consultation that he did with the JBHM Architectural Firm, regarding a park and fountain area being built in front of the new MS Museum of Art. The intent was accessibility for wheelchair users, or people who have gait impairments.
 - c. Police Training has been placed on hold; pending Christy's absence, due to family health issues.
 - d. Mr. Gleese and other city employees will be working with individuals with Homeland Security to keep our planning on track.
 - e. Mr. Gleese would like for the ADA Advisory Council to keep informed about events happening in the disability community so that we can support them.
 - f. Ms. Lee will take responsibility to help put together a calendar of events in the disability community; in order for members of this council to have a calendar of events to distribute.

The floor was open for comments:

1. Mr. Louis Armstrong bought up emergency management plan regarding services handled through his office; in collaboration with agencies within the disability world to organize a database to assist people with disability in case of major disaster. Dr. Crawford

- suggested that perhaps the city might consider pre-positioning the most medically fragile people (people who need ventilators or other seriously dependent individuals) in hospitals during a crisis that have some warning (e.g., hurricanes). Mr. Gleese will make a note of Dr. Crawford's suggestion since that particular item has been discussed.
- 2. Ms. Cole asked if there was a timeframe in place for gathering information for the database. According to Mr. Armstrong there isn't a timeframe.
- 3. Mr. Ewing expressed interest in consulting on future sidewalk/bus stop upgrades, before modification or new construction are done to avoid mistakes. Mr. Ewing asked if there is a representative of this council serving on the Red Cross Emergency Response Team to assist with issues centered on ADA. Mr. Gleese, Jackson's ADA Coordinator, take part in that committee sometime. Mr. Ewing feels that all first responder and the disability organizations, policemen, firemen, and other city entities responsible for planning for major disaster should have a representative serving on the Red Cross Emergency Response Team.

V. JATRAN Updates:

- a. Lee, Napoleon, Tracy, Mr. Tensely, Diane, Karen and Mr. Cheatham, attended last month JATRAN Advisory Council Meeting. Efforts continue to update policies and procedures Manual and Riders Guide; which includes adding recommended language from DOJ.
- b. The Manual and Riders Guide is almost completed with the exception, of how many **No-shows** a rider can have before a disciplinary action can be taken.
- c. Dr. Crawford shared with the council reference to an article pertaining to having a fixed number of No-shows a rider can have before discipline is put into action. According to the article, a rider must show a consistent pattern of "No-shows", before any sanction can be taken. However, the rider can appeal the decision made by Transit authority. It's very clear that you can't have a fixed number of No-shows.
- d. Mr. Campbell suggested to Mr. Cheatham, that he will come up with a base number of no-shows before suspension and that he will be lenient toward people with disability.
- e. Ms. Cole mentioned the decision wasn't made on yesterday, due to Traci Brent being out ill. It was understood once the decision was made, the ADA Advisory Council would review the document, and pass it on to Legal, and they would forward it to DOJ. Mr. Campbell mentioned the 3rd Wednesday of the month has been scheduled to review the document.
- f. Ms. Azande Williams, City Legal Department, stated that DOJ reviewed the policies and procedures manual and Riders Guide, and gave 6 or 7 bullet points of things the City need to revise as flow and structure is concern.
- g. According to Ms. Cole the Handi-Lift Advisory Committee appointed a subcommittee to discuss the 6 bullets that should be put in the document, in

order for the policies and procedures manual to mirror what was in the Riders guide.

VI. The ADA Advisory Council will meet Wednesday, March 09, 2011, in the Community Room at the Art Center. The Art Center is located at 201 E. Pascagoula Street. Please use the Lamar Street entrance. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. There being no further business this meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by Ms. Jackie Washington and Rev. Sam Gleese and approved at the March 9, 2011 meeting.